

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09

NEA-10 DHA-02 CCO-00 SAM-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OMB-01

USSS-00 ACDA-10 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /119 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7420

UNCLAS VIENNA 10584

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPEC, ASEC, AU

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC

SITREP 4

REF: VIENNA 10583

1. OFFICIAL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY CRISIS CENTER TOLD EMBOFF AT 2330 THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH TERRORISTS WERE CONTINUING WITH IRAQI CHARGE AI-AZZAWI AS INTERMEDIARY. MAIN POINTS AT ISSUE WITH TERRORISTS APPEAR TO BE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT INSISTANCE THAT (A) APPROXIMATELY 10 AUSTRIAN NATIONALS AMONG HOSTAGES BE RELEASED, (B) REMAINING HOSTAGES INDICATE IN WRITING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE AUSTRIA WITH THE TERRORISTS, AND (C) THAT SEVERELY WOUNDED TERRORIST REMAIN HOSPITALIZED IN VIENNA.

2. AUSTRIAN RADIO CARRIED AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT AT 2400 THAT TERRORISTS WOULD RELEASE 10 AUSTRIAN HOSTAGES EARLY MONDAY MORNING. IF AUSTRIANS ARE INDEED RELEASED, FATE OF WOUNDED TERRORIST MAY PROVE TO BE KEY ELEMENT. AUSTRIAN RADIO REPORTED AT 2300
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THAT A PHYSICIAN FROM HOSPITAL WHERE WOUNDED TERRORIST IS

BEING HELD WOULD SPEAK PERSONALLY WITH TERRORISTS TO EXPLAIN THAT MOVING WOUNDED TERRORIST WOULD BE FATAL TO HIM. RADIO REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THAT ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS TOLD CHANCELLOR KREISKY THAT IF GIVEN A PLANE, ALGERIA WOULD ALLOW TERRORISTS TO LAND AT ALGIERS.

3. TERRORIST STATEMENT (REPORTED BY FBIS) ATTACKING IRAN, SADAT, "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" AND ANY FORM OF ACCOMODATION WITH ISRAEL IS BEING BROADCAST IN FRENCH OVER AUSTRIA RADIO AS HAD BEEN DEMANDED.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMED RADIO REPORTS THAT 11 OUT OF 13 OPEC MINISTERS ARE BEING HELD. UAE AND QATAR MINISTERS ARE APARENTLY THE TWO NOT BEING HELD. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSTAGES NOW PLACED AT 50-70, MOST OF WHOM ARE OPEC EMPLOYEES.

5. EARLIER CASUALTY REPORTS HAVE NOW BEEN REVISED AS FOLLOWS: TWO DEAD--ONE AUSTRIAN POLICE OFFICER AND ONE IRAQI EMPLOYEE OF OPEC; THREE WOUNDED--INCLUDING ONE TERRORIST.

6. COMMENT: THE INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE ATTACK FROM AUSTRIAN OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMAN AND RADIO SUMMARIES OF COMMENTARY FROM THE EARLY EDITIONS OF MONDAY MORNING'S PAPERS INDICATE THAT THE ADEQUACY OF GOA SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPEC MEETING MAY WELL BECOME A DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE HERE.

7. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.MEEHAN

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